

I CLAIM:

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1 1. A system for purchasing lottery tickets over the Internet comprising:
2 at least one server; and
3 at least one computer connected to the at least one server via the Internet;
4 wherein the at least server hosts at least one virtual group of lottery ticket
5 purchasers, the at least one server storing group information for the virtual group;
6 wherein the at least one server stores lottery information about at least one
7 lottery;
8 wherein the at least one server causes the lottery tickets to be purchased for
9 the purchasers according to the group information and the lottery information; and
10 wherein the at least one server communicates results of the purchase of lottery
11 tickets to the purchasers on the basis of the group information.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the group information comprises one or more
2 of the number of purchasers, telephone numbers, fax numbers, cellular telephone numbers,
3 e-mail addresses and biographical information of the purchasers.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the lottery information comprises one or more
2 of the lottery type, purchase volume, purchase interval, lottery number selection, tracking
3 interval, payment method, distribution and notification method for the virtual group.

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1 4. The system of claim 1 further comprising a chat room created for the virtual
2 group wherein the purchasers discuss the lottery tickets with each other over the Internet.

1 Sub 947 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the group information is caused to be changed
2 by accessing the at least one server via the Internet.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the lottery information is caused to be changed
2 by accessing the at least one server via the Internet.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the chat room comprises an information menu
2 for the purchasers to select for displaying information on one of the lottery tickets.

1 Sub 957 8. A method for purchasing lottery tickets over the Internet in a system including
2 at least one server and at least one computer, the at least one server storing group information
3 a virtual group of purchasers of lottery tickets, and lottery information on at least one lottery,
4 the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) electronically purchasing the lottery tickets according to the group
6 information and the lottery information;

7 (b) communicating results of the lottery ticket purchasers to the
8 purchasers using the group information; and

9 (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) according to the group information and the
10 lottery information, unless any of the group information and the lottery information is caused

11 to be changed.

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1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the group information includes one or more
2 of the purchaser's telephone numbers, fax numbers, cellular telephone numbers, e-mail
3 addresses and biographical information of the purchasers.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the lottery information includes one or more
2 of the lottery type, purchase volume, purchase interval, lottery number selection, tracking
3 interval, payment method, distribution and notification method for the virtual group,

1 11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of creating a chat room for
2 the virtual group where the purchasers discuss the lottery tickets with each other over the
3 Internet.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

2 (e) causing the at least one computer to be connected to the at least one
3 server over the Internet;

4 (f) determining whether any of the purchasers is online over the Internet;

5 (g) providing instant messaging if any of the purchasers is online; and

6 (h) accessing the chat room.

1 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

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- 2 (i) determining whether a change has been requested for the group
3 information;
- 4 (j) causing the group information to be changed, if a change has been
5 requested in step (i);
- 6 (k) determining whether a change has been requested for the lottery
7 information; and
- 8 (l) causing the lottery information to be changed, if a change has been
9 requested in step (k).

1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of authenticating access
2 in step (h).

1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of authenticating change
2 in steps (i) and (k).

1 16. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of selecting one of the
2 lottery tickets and displaying information corresponding to the selected lottery ticket.

1 17. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of communicating results
2 communicates information on the purchases and information on whether any of the purchases
3 resulted in a winning ticket.

- 1 18. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of communicating is by one of
- 2 electronic mail or posting results on an Internet website.

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